

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when a company controls the airwaves, there is always a danger that they will be used to further the partisan, political agenda of the company's owners, and here we have a clear case where this is happening. We cannot prevent the owners of companies from having political agendas, but we can limit the reach of their control. If we give private individuals the power to use the airways to further the causes that they espouse, we must make sure that they do not have the power to shut out opposing views.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.